

Annapolis Conservancy Board

Thursday, March 11, 2010, 5:30pm

145 Gorman Street, P&Z Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Jay Baldwin, **Chair**
David Fogle

Tom Lippert, **Vice Chairman**
Jon Chapman

Karen Jennings

Members Absent:

Gretchen Clift

Joel Dunn

Staff Present:

Frank Biba

Rob Savidge

Tami Hook, Recorder

HOUSEKEEPING:

November 12, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Lippert moved approval of the November 12, 2009 meeting minutes as written. Mr. Fogle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 5-0.

Review Minutes & Activities of Other City Boards

The minutes of other City Boards and Commissions were provided for review. Members were encouraged to submit any questions or concerns to staff.

Annual Report

The Annual Report has been deferred for discussion at the May 13, 2010 meeting.

Mail

There was no mail for review.

NEW BUSINESS:

Environmental Ideas Team Report to the Mayor

Mr. Baldwin went over those items in the Environmental Ideas Team report noted below that specifically pertain to the Conservancy Board.

1. Identify where open space is needed;
2. Greenways and Planning Process;
3. Increase Open Space;
4. Public Access Needs;
5. Expand Pocket Park System;
6. Funding Recommendations.

There was a brief discussion regarding the recommendations of the Environmental Idea Team and what part of these recommendations should or will be implemented. Ms. Jennings believes that the Mayor appointed the Environmental Matters Committee to oversee implementing the recommendations of this report. Mr. Biba agreed to look into who will take responsibility for the recommendations and what will be expected of the Board.

1. ACB Presentation to Environmental Matters Committee

Mr. Baldwin made a presentation to the Environmental Matters Committee several weeks ago regarding the Conservancy Board's function and their importance to the City. He believes that the meeting was well received. In response to a question as to when the Environmental Matters Committee members meet, Mr. Biba stated that this Committee is scheduled to meet once a month if there are agenda items.

Maryland Environmental Trust Letters of Support

1. MET to Mayor Cohen

Mr. Baldwin provided copies of the letters from the Maryland Environmental Trust to the Mayor regarding their funding support of the Conservancy Board. He received responses to this letter.

2. ACB to Maryland General Assembly

In turn, the Board wrote a letter to the Maryland General Assembly expressing their support and requesting that the Maryland General Assembly be funded. He received responses to this letter.

Land Trust Alliance

1. Magazine Article on the ACB

Mr. Baldwin reminded the Board that there was an email letter from the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) that included a copy of the article written by staff that will also be included in the magazine. A copy of the article will be provided to members at the May meeting.

2. Membership

Mr. Baldwin suggested the Board consider renewing the LTA membership. Mr. Chapman moved to renew the LTA membership. Ms. Jennings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 5-0. The Board agreed to include a copy of the article with the membership renewal request for Mr. Biba to pursue. Ms. Jennings will also locate the justification documentation from Mr. Dunn to include as well. The Chairman will prepare a cover letter to attach to the request.

South Cherry Grove Easement

Mr. Biba provided background on this easement explaining that this was a request from someone who thought that this easement could be used to create a connection between West Street and Forest Drive. He noted that in 1999 the City entered into an easement agreement with the Scenic River Land Trust to prevent this connection.

Saltaire Condominium Association Tree Clearing Request

Mr. Biba pulled the Saltaire Condominium plat which was registered in 1973 and found that there was a conservation easement but there was no documentation on the easement detail so therefore the HOA owns the easement by default. The purpose for this agenda item was due to a request from the HOA soliciting permission to clear some trees. Because this is private property, there are no permits involved and is not regulated because it is 25-feet from the right of way.

Admiral Oaks Conservation Easement Update

Mr. Biba pulled the Admiral Oaks plat which was registered in 1967 and found that there was no record of a conservation easement. He agreed to check up on the status of this agenda item.

OLD BUSINESS:

New ACB Brochure

Ms. Jennings reminded members that each member was provided a copy of the old brochure to review for suggested improvements. She suggested improving the brochure electronically for posting on the website. Mr. Baldwin stated that the Board should consider moving forward with the design of the brochure so that in the event funding becomes available that it can be ready to go. Ms. Jennings agreed to prepare a write once she receives the LTA article. Once the write up is prepared then she will email it out for comments.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Update

This issue was deferred to the May 13, 2010 meeting for an update from Mr. Dunn.

Cooperative Agreement with Maryland Environmental Trust

Mr. Chapman explained that Mr. Carr and Ms. Howey met to determine what could be included in a cooperative agreement. Ms. Howey was in the process of presenting the basic agreement to the MET Board for approval and was asked to put this on hold until further input from the Conservancy Board is received. He agreed to follow up with Ms. Howey on the status.

"Post Haste" Access Agreement Connecting Poplar & Spa Creek Trails

Mr. Biba will check into the status of this project and report back to the Board at the May meeting.

Posting of Signs at Kingsport

Mr. Biba will check into the status of the Kingsport sign posting. Mr. Chapman explained that it would be helpful to have one comprehensive plan that showed where the easement is located.

Kingsport Violations – Enforcement Letter to HOA

Ms. Hook read the November meeting minutes that indicate this issue is still unresolved. Mr. Biba explained that the Kingsport project is under dispute and agreed to check into the matter to report back at the May meeting.

Scheduled Spring Tour in April

The Board agreed to tentatively meet on April 10, 2010 for the annual Spring tour of the easements.

Spa Cove

Ms. Jennings requested a status on the Spa Cove right of way access to the easement providing background on her request that the City consider allowing access when it reviews the project during the permit process. Mr. Biba responded that the City owns this property in fee simple so it is not an easement. He agreed to check with Mr. Arason on the status.

Mr. Baldwin explained that there is an opportunity for more easement area with the three large upcoming projects. He suggested recruiting volunteers to assist with the monitoring of the easement properties so that these types of tours can occur more frequently.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2010. With there being no further business, Mr. Lippert moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:32pm. Mr. Chapman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote 5-0.

Tami Hook, Recorder